ydrogeological Survey in North-Eastern States

2585. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to ate:

(a) whether the Hydrogeological Survey works have been carried out to assess the hanges in the ground water with regard quality and quantity in the North-astern States;

(b) if so, the State-wise categorisation f exploited and dark Blocks/Taluks/ dandals/watersheds of the North-East-rn States; and

(c) whether Government have a plan to onstitute a ground water authority?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE SHRI-SOMPAL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No areas of North East States fall under 'over exploited' or 'dark' category in terms of exploitation of ground water;

(c) The Central Government have con-tituted the Central Ground Water Board is an Authority for the purposes of egulation and control of ground water nanagement and development in the ountry for a period of five years from anuary, 1997.

Modernisation of Sone-Canal

2586. SHRI NAGENDRA NATH OJHA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be leased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal regarding modernisation of Sone-canal in Bihar; and

(b) if so, what steps have been taken by Government for preparing a plan for he same and its implementation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) and (b) Sone Canal Modernisation Project Phase-I (Bihar) estimated to cost Rs. 235.93 crores (at 1991 price level) has been accorded in-vestment clearance by the Planning Cem-mission on 7.7.98 However, Irrigation is a State subject. The implementation of the Project will depend upon the priority attached to it by the State Government.

Use of Ganga Water

2587. DR. B.B DUTTA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated quantum of water flowing into the river Ganga;

(b) the quantum of water being used for irrigation, drinking and industrial use, separately;

(c) the quantum of unutilised water which flows into the sea; and

(d) the steps taken/proposed to be taken for the maximum utilisation of the water of river Ganga?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SOMPAL): (a) The annual flow through the river Ganga based on seventy percent dependability has been estimated at 60 billion cubic metre during non-monsoon and 352 billion cubic metre during the monsoon season making a total of 412 billion cubic metre.

(b) There had been no assessment for quantifying present utilisation separately for each sector. However, the total quantum utilised based on withdrawals is about 62 billion cubic metre annually for irrigation, drinking and industrial purposes. The quantum annually utilised for navigation in Calcutta Port is about 28 billion cubic metre annually, making a total utilisation of 90 billion cubic metre.

(c) The quantity of Ganga water going into the sea has not been assessed as the available flow in the river over and above the utilised in India flows into Benglad-esh. This quantity is about 322 billion cubic metre annually, part of which is utilised in Bengladesh as per their re-quirement and the rest flows into the sea.